



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

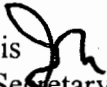
Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management  
Washington, D.C. 20201

MAY 11 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Operating Divisions and Staff Divisions

From: Joe W. Ellis   
Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

Subject: Direct-Hire Authority for "Difficult-to-Fill" Acquisition Positions

On August 4, 2005, the Office of Personnel Management published an interim regulation regarding Federal acquisition positions covered under Title 41, United States Code (U.S.C.) 433 (g)(1)(A). This regulation allows civilian agencies to use "direct-hire" authority to recruit and appoint highly qualified individuals for "difficult-to-fill" Federal acquisition positions deemed to be a shortage category under the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003.

You or your designees (as defined in the attached policy) are authorized to use direct-hire authority to recruit and select qualified individuals at all geographic locations for positions listed in the attached policy. Recruitment and selection authority may be re-delegated to the Heads of Contracting Activity (or designees), but the final appointment authority resides with the appointing officials. A categorical exemption from any hiring controls is granted for all OPDIVS to use in this regard for the positions listed in the attached policy.

The authority is effective immediately and is valid through September 30, 2007.

Attached is HHS policy outlining the procedures to implement this authority.

If you have any questions, contact Donna Jackson, OHR, at (202) 690-6137 or Linda Stivaletti-Petty, OAMP, at (202) 720-1906.